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DDR-90-62

11 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Briefing for 5412 Group Meeting Concerning
Registration of Objects in Space and
Law of Outer Space

1. Registration of Objects in Space: Representatives of State, Defense, and CIA met yesterday and did not reach a position on Mr. Johnson's recommended change in the U. S. position, i. e., to register all launches whether or not they remained in orbit for any length of time. This is a departure from the State position paper of 13 March 1962, attached as Tab A, particularly Annexes F and H, with which generally we agree. Concurrently, Dr. Charyk had developed a proposed national policy on satellite reconnaissance which is the attachment to Mr. Gilpatric's memorandum to General Tayler, Mr. Johnson and yourself. This paper is Tab B. The key positions in Mr. Gilpatric's letter are: "It would seem therefore that we should consider all aspects of registry and other United Nations matters in the full context of our satellite reconnaissance program. . . . I feel that so grave a question should receive the immediate and full consideration of the 5412 Group and that a basic national policy should be determined for satellite reconnaissance at the earliest."

Recommendation: It is strongly recommended that you support this position, i. e., that we cease taking decisions in detail until a full national policy exists as a background against which such decisions can be logically taken, and that meanwhile we support limited registration as it is now practiced. (See Tab C.)

2. Law of Outer Space: Mr. Johnson suggested at the 5 April meeting that Defense and CIA review the State Department position papers of 13 March to determine if there was a conflict between the proposed positions and any of our essential projects. There is no dispute on the concept that outer space is free for the use of all under the tenets of international law and we would agree with the Defense Department position that this includes use by the military for appropriate purposes in connection with national defense and the national security, short of outright aggression. However, the basic

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State Department proposal urges complete openness in describing our outer space activities while Dr. Charyk proposes that it is consistent with international law to maintain secrecy, particularly in connection with military operations.

Recommendation: We recommend that you oppose the State Department on openness. Legitimate activities may still require security safeguards to be effective.

Signed

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

Attachments:
Tabs A thru C

cc: D/DCI w/Att A thru C
cc: General Counsel w/Att C only
AC/DPD "
DAD/C/SI "

DDR:HS:djm
✓ 1-DD/R Chrono
1-DD/R Subject - *Outer Space*.

Orig a/ atts to be filed AC/DPD

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